

Message Text

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TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 055583

FOLLOWING REPEAT LISBON 1342 ACTION SECSTATE INFO

MADRID DTD 11 MAR

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1342

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINT, PO

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH GENERAL OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO

REF: OKUN/ROWELL TELCON MARCH 11

SITREP NO. 20

1. EMBASSY REPORTED IN REF TELCON PRESS CONFERENCE BY
GENERAL OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO IN WHICH HE IMPLIED I WAS
INVOLVED IN TODAY'S COUP ATTEMPT, STATING HE COULD NOT
GUARANTEE MY SAFETY AND THAT HE WAS ASKING AUTHORITIES I BE
RECALLED. OTELO HAD SAID I HAD BACKGROUND IN COUNTRIES WHERE
TROUBLE HAD OCCURRED AND SHOULD BE THE "TARGET."

2. AFTER SOME DIFFICULTY I SUCCEEDED IN CONTACTING OTELO
DIRECTLY BY PHONE AT ABOUT 10:00 P.M. I ASKED HIM EXACTLY
WHAT HE HAD SAID. WITH SOME HEMMING AND HAWING HE INDICATED
THAT IN LIGHT OF PRESS ATTACKS ON ME HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT
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MY SECURITY AND HAD SUGGESTED PUBLICLY THAT I BE REPLACED BY

SOMEONE WITHOUT MY "CURRICULUM."

3. ASKED OTELO IF HE KNEW ANYTHING ABOUT MY CURRICULUM. HE SAID ONLY WHAT HE HAD READ IN PRESS. TOLD HIM THESE WERE LIES. OTELO SAID THAT THEY HAD NOT BEEN EFFECTIVELY DENIED. TOLD HIM I WAS AN ACCREDITED AMBASSADOR FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND IT WAS NOT MY JOB TO DENY IRRESPONSIBLE PRESS ATTACKS. HOWEVER IT WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF GOP, SPECIFICALLY HIS, TO GUARANTEE MY SAFETY.

4. TOLD OTELO HE WAS DEALING WITH VERY SERIOUS MATTERS, WHICH I WANTED TO DISCUSS DIRECTLY WITH HIM BEFORE TAKING ANY OFFICIAL ACTION. HE KNEW I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH TODAY'S EVENTS. OF COURSE, HE SAID. THEN EITHER GOP WAS PREPARED TO GUARANTEE SECURITY OF AMERICAN AMBASSADOR OR WE WERE TALKING ABOUT POSSIBLE SERIOUS PROBLEMS BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS.

5. OTELO SAID THIS WAS FARTHEST FROM HIS THOUGHTS. HE REPEATED SOMEWHAT NERVOUSLY THREE TIMES THAT HE WAS VERY WORRIED ABOUT MY PERSONAL SECURITY. I TOLD HIM THAT IF THAT WAS THE CASE HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS WOULD ONLY SERVE TO PROVOKE INCIDENTS AGAINST MY PERSON (EMBASSY HAD ALREADY RECEIVED A RASH OF THREATENING PHONE CALLS.) OTELO CONCLUDED CONVERSATION BY AGREEING HE HAD RESPONSIBILITY AND WOULD ATTEMPT TO FULFILL IT. ASKED ME FOR MY HOME ADDRESS*

6. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS LEARNED FROM SOURCE IN PRESIDENCY THAT COSTA GOMES, WHEN INFORMED OF OTELO'S STATEMENT, PERSONALLY TELEPHONED HIM AND TOLD HIM HIS CONDUCT WAS IMPROPER. NEVERTHELESS, AFTER TODAY'S EVENTS, OTELO IS RIDING EXTREMELY HIGH, AND THAT IS NOT GOOD.
CARLUCCI UNQTE INGERSOLL

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